

Media Release

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**Mike Tomlin, Aaron Brooks among inductees for
Athletic Hall of Fame of the Lower Virginia Peninsula**

*--Banquet takes place Sunday, May 15 at Boo Williams Sportsplex,
the new location of the Hall --*

Hampton, VA- On Sunday, May 15, be present as the Athletic Hall of Fame of the Lower Virginia Peninsula inducts six new members, including Super Bowl-winning coach Mike Tomlin and former NFL quarterback Aaron Brooks. The banquet will take place 6:30 p.m. at the Boo Williams Sportsplex (5 Armistead Pointe Parkway Hampton, VA 23666), the brand new location of the Hall. The event will feature video highlights of each athlete's career and will be emceed by WVEC-13 News sports reporter Scott Cash. Cost is \$50.00 per person and includes meal.

This year's full list of inductees includes:

Gary Bodie

A graduate of Hampton High School and the California Institute of Technology, Bodie is a longtime leader in the Hampton Road's sailing community. He has coached at Old Dominion University and the Naval Academy, and has won 15 national championships at Hampton University. In 1998, Bodie was named coach of the United States Olympic Sailing Team and has since coached in three Olympic Games.

Aaron Brooks

A graduate of Ferguson High School and the University of Virginia, Brooks is a former NFL quarterback with the Green Bay Packers, New Orleans Saints, and Oakland Raiders. In 1998, Brooks led the Cavaliers to a near victory in the Peach Bowl against the Georgia Bulldogs. In

2007, Brooks retired as the Saints' franchise leader in season and career touchdown passes, though both records have since been broken by Drew Brees.

Vince Brown

As the longtime track and field coach at Christopher Newport University, Brown compiled an outstanding record during his 25 years at the school. Brown's teams won 12 national team championships and 61 individual and relay Division III national titles. In addition, his athletes have amassed 444 All-America honors.

Willie Brown

Brown played basketball, football, and ran track at Carver High School and the Apprentice School. Brown is a long-time supporter, and volunteer, with the Virginia Special Olympics. In addition, he has been instrumental in the operation of the Boo Williams Summer League basketball program for the last 25 years.

Buddy Lex

Lex is a graduate of Newport News High School and the College of William and Mary. In 1949, Lex set a national record by throwing 18 touchdown passes. That same year, he was runner-up to Sam Snead as Virginia's Athlete of the Year.

Mike Tomlin

Tomlin is a graduate and former football player at Denbigh High School and the College of William and Mary. After stops as an assistant coach at several colleges (including VMI and Arkansas State University), Tomlin moved on to the NFL with Tampa Bay Buccaneers, and later, the Minnesota Vikings. On Jan. 22, 2007, Tomlin was named head coach of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Tomlin has taken the Steelers to two Super Bowls during his time in Pittsburgh, winning the franchise's sixth title in 2008 season and losing to the Green Bay Packers in the 2010 season.

Outstanding Achievement

In 2002, the Athletic Hall of Fame of the Lower Virginia Peninsula selection committee established this award to honor the achievements of those, who on and off the field, have played a significant role in the development and promotion of athletics in the local area. This year the committee honors Bill Smith for his outstanding contributions to wrestling and, posthumously, Director of the Peninsula Muscular Dystrophy Benefit Baseball Tournament Sandra Pickin.

To purchase tickets for the Athletic Hall of Fame of the Lower Virginia Peninsula banquet, contact Cyndi Masterstaff at 757/727-8314 or cmasterstaff@hampton.gov

In 1971, Hampton City Council established the Athletic Hall of Fame of the Lower Virginia Peninsula to honor individuals who, by outstanding achievement or service, have made lasting contributions to the cause of sports. A nominee must be either a native of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson, or York County; or have resided 10 or more years of his/her life on the Lower Peninsula. An inductee must be at least 25 years old.

Created in 1971 by then Hampton Mayor Ann Hitch Kilgore, the Athletic Hall of Fame of the Lower Virginia Peninsula was established to honor athletes that have excelled in athletic and personal arenas. The Hall was housed on the second level of the Hampton Coliseum, until this year, its 40th Anniversary. The hall is being relocated to the Boo Williams Sportsplex to help bring further awareness and visibility to its honorees. Each inductee is honored with a bronze plaque. Every three years the committee selects new inductees to be honored. Since 1971, 58 members have been selected.

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